

REMARKS

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted prior to examination. Modifications to the specification provide serial numbers for copending patent applications referenced in the subject application and correct a minor language informality. Also, the title of copending application serial number 08/581,660 will be changed by preliminary amendment in that application to a new title, and the amendment herein changes the title to that new title to maintain consistency.

Independent article of manufacture claim 13 and its dependent claims 14 - 15 have been added. Support for the newly added article claims may be found in the specification in originally filed claims 1, 8 and 11, in FIG. 21 and at pp. 58 - 62, and to the best information and belief of the undersigned, no new matter has been added in these newly added claims.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, an accompanying Form 1449 and a set of documents have been submitted concurrently with this Preliminary Amendment. These documents are referenced in the specification in the Background and were not previously submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement that accompanied the filing of the subject application. It is respectfully requested that the documents that qualify as prior art in this submission be made of record in this application, and that they be considered during the examination of the subject claims.

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND SUGGESTED PRE-EXAMINATION INTERVIEW

Prompt consideration of the above-entitled application is respectfully requested. Toward facilitating the most thorough examination and efficient prosecution of the above-entitled application, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact her at the phone number below prior to a first search of the prior art or prior to composing the first

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Office Action if there are any questions as to the operation of the subject invention. Although interviews prior to the receipt of the first Office Action are not standard procedure, the undersigned welcomes the opportunity to have a technical discussion of the operation of the invention prior to a search of the prior art when questions exist as to the technical details of the invention and when the Examiner believes that such a discussion would ultimately lead to more efficient examination of the subject application.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider this application, and, after conducting a thorough search, allow claims 1 - 15, and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judith C. Bares", written over a horizontal line.

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